

We know how much our words matter in helping students develop a growth mindset- especially when test scores may not yet be where they hope to be. With the right encouragement, children learn that scores are not permanent, mistakes are opportunities to grow, and persistence builds strength. Below are some phrases you can use to help your student stay motivated and confident.

Focus on Effort

"This test shows where you are right now, not where you'll always be."

"I see how hard you worked, and that effort will help you grow."

"This is just one snapshot- your learning is much bigger than one test."

"Your effort on this is what I'm most proud of."

Learning from Mistakes

"Scores show us what we can work on next."

"I'm proud of you for trying. Now we know where to focus your practice."

"The score is just feedback to help us learn where we can focus next, not a final judgment of your abilities."

Encouraging Persistence

"Struggles are part of learning- every challenge makes your brain stronger."

"Scores don't measure your potential. They just tell us what you need to practice."

"This is a chance to see what we can learn next time."

"I am proud of you for not giving up when it was hard."

Highlighting Strengths

"This score doesn't define all the things you're great at."

"Your creativity, kindness and effort matter just as much as a number."